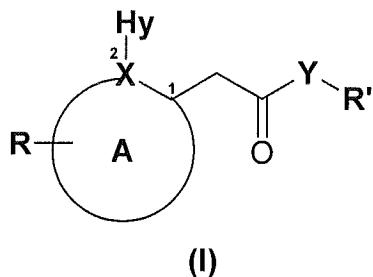


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment of psoriasis, ulcerative colitis, melanoma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), bullous pemphigoid, rheumatoid arthritis, idiopathic fibrosis, glomerulonephritis and in the treatment of damages caused by reperfusion after ischemia diseases that involve IL-8 induced human PMN chemotaxis comprising administering a compound of formula (I):



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein

A is selected from benzene, naphthalene, pyridine, pyrimidine, pyrrole, imidazole, furane, thiophene, indole and 7-aza-indole and labels 1 and 2 mark the relevant positions on the A ring;

the X atom is selected from N (nitrogen) and C (carbon);

R is a substituting group on the A ring selected from:

- a group in the 3 (*meta*)-position selected from a linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkenyl or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkynyl group, substituted or not-substituted phenyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> hydroxyalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-acyl, substituted or not-substituted benzoyl;
- a group in the 4 (*para*)-position selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkenyl or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkynyl group, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-acyloxy, substituted or not-substituted benzoyloxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-acylamino, substituted or not-substituted benzoylamino, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-sulfonyloxy, substituted or not-substituted benzenesulfonyloxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkanesulfonylamino, substituted or not-substituted benzenesulfonylamino, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkanesulfonylmethyl, substituted or not-substituted benzenesulfonylmethyl, 2-furyl; 3-tetrahydrofuryl; 2 thiophenyl; 2-tetrahydrothiophenyl groups or a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkanoyl, cycloalkanoyl or arylalkanoyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkylamino group;

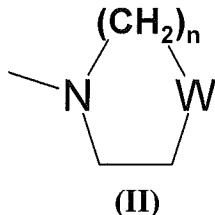
Hy is a small hydrophobic group with a ~~steric hindrance factor~~Charton steric constant  $\nu$  ranging between 0.5 and 0.9 Å (where  $\nu$  is the Charton steric constant for substituents); the Y group is selected from O (oxygen) and NH;

when Y is O (oxygen), R' is H (hydrogen);

when Y is NH, R' is selected from

- H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkyl, [[C<sub>1</sub>]]C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkenyl;
- an amino acid residue consisting of straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, [[C<sub>1</sub>]]C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, phenylalkyl substituted with one or more carboxy (COOH) groups;

- an amino acid residue consisting of straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, [[C<sub>1</sub>]]C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, phenylalkyl, bearing along the chain a heteroatom selected from oxygen and sulfur and with one or more carboxy (COOH) groups;
- a residue of formula -CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-Z-(CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>n</sub>R'' wherein R'' is H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkyl, n is an integer from 0 to 2 and Z is oxygen or sulfur;
- a residue of formula -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-NR<sub>a</sub>R<sub>b</sub> wherein n is an integer from 0 to 5 and each R<sub>a</sub> and R<sub>b</sub>, which may be the same or different, are C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl or, alternatively, R<sub>a</sub> and R<sub>b</sub>, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a heterocycle from 3 to 7 members of formula (II)



- wherein W represents a single bond, CH<sub>2</sub>, O, S or N-Rc, wherein Rc is H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylphenyl;
- a residue OR'' wherein R'' is H, methyl, carboxymethyl;
- a residue of formula SO<sub>2</sub>Rd wherein Rd is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, [[C<sub>1</sub>]]C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl.

[[.]]

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein YR' is OH.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein Y is NH and R' is:

- the amino acid residue of glycine,  $\beta$ -alanine,  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid or residues of an L- $\alpha$ -amino acid selected in the group of L-alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, nor-leucine, phenylalanine, S-methylcysteine, methionine;
- a residue of formula  $-\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-(CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{O)}\text{R}''$  wherein R'' is H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkyl;
- a residue of formula  $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-NRaRb}$  wherein n is an integer from 2 to three, more preferably 3, and the group NRaRb is N,N-dimethylamine, N,N-diethylamine, 1-piperidyl, 4-morpholyl, 1-pyrrolidyl, 1-piperazinyl, 1-(4-methyl)piperazinyl;
- a residue OR'' wherein R'' is H, methyl;
- a residue of formula SO<sub>2</sub>Rd wherein Rd is methyl, ethyl or isopropyl.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to any of claims 1, 3, or 4, wherein R is 3'-benzoyl, 3'-(4-chloro-benzoyl), 3'-(4-methyl-benzoyl), 3'-acetyl, 3'-propionyl, 3'-isobutanoyl, 3'-ethyl, 3'-isopropyl, 4'-isobutyl, 4'-trifluoromethanesulphonyloxy, 4'-benzenesulphonyloxy, 4'-trifluoromethanesulphonylamino, 4'-benzenesulphonylamino, 4'-benzenesulphonylmethyl, 4'-acetoxy, 4'-propionyloxy, 4'-benzoyloxy, 4'-acetylamino, 4'-propionylamino, 4'-benzoylamino.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein Hy is selected from methyl, ethyl, chlorine, bromine, methoxy and trifluoromethyl.

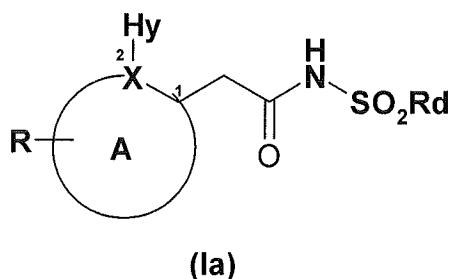
7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from:

(3-benzoyl-2-methylphenyl)acetic acid,  
(2-chloro-3-propionylphenyl)acetic acid,  
(3-isopropyl-2-methylphenyl)acetic acid,  
(4-isobutyl-2-methylphenyl)acetic acid,  
{2-methyl-4-[(phenylsulphonyl)amino]phenyl}acetic acid,  
{2-methyl-4-[(trifluoromethanesulphonyl)amino]phenyl}acetic acid,  
{2-chloro-4-[(trifluoromethanesulphonyl)oxy]phenyl}acetic acid,  
(5-acetyl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acetic acid,  
[1-methyl-5-(4-methylbenzoyl)-1H-pyrrol-2-yl]acetic acid,  
(5-benzoyl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acetic acid,  
[1-methyl-5-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-1H-pyrrol-2-yl]acetic acid,  
(5-isobutyryl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acetic acid,  
(1-benzoyl-2-methyl-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)acetic acid,  
(1-benzoyl-2-chloro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)acetic acid,  
(1-benzoyl-2-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)acetic acid,  
[1-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-2-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl]acetic acid,  
(1-isopropyl-2-methyl-1H-pyrrole[2,3-b]pyridin-3-yl)acetic acid,

(3-benzoyl-2-methoxyphenyl)acetic acid,  
(5-acetyl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acetamide,  
(5-acetyl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)-N-carboxymethylacetamide,  
(S)(5-acetyl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)-N-(2-carboxyethyl)acetamide,  
(5-acetyl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)-N-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)acetamide,  
(S)(5-acetyl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)-N-(3-methoxy-2-carboxypropyl)acetamide,  
(4-isobutyl-2-methylphenyl)acetamide,  
(2-chloro-3-propionylphenyl))-N-(3-dimethylaminoethyl)acetamide,  
(3-isopropyl-2-methylphenyl)-N-[3-(1-piperidinyl)propyl]acetamide,  
(3-benzoyl-2-methylphenyl)acetamide,  
(1-benzoyl-2-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)acetamide,  
(1-benzoyl-2-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-N-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)acetamide,  
[1-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-2-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl]acetamide,  
[1-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-5-methoxy-2-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl]acetamide,  
{2-chloro-4-[(trifluoromethanesulphonyl)oxy]phenyl}-N-(2-hydroxyethoxyethyl)acetamide,  
(1-benzoyl-2-methyl-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)-N-(2-methoxyethyl)acetamide,  
(1-benzoyl-2-chloro-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)-N-[3-(1-morpholino)propyl]acetamide,  
(5-isobutyryl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acetamide,  
(5-benzoyl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)-N-(2-carboxymethyl)acetamide,  
[1-methyl-5-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-1H-pyrrol-2-yl]-N-(2-hydroxyethoxyethyl)acetamide,  
[1-methyl-5-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-1H-pyrrol-2-yl]acetamide,  
{2-methyl-4-[(phenylsulphonyl)amino]phenyl}-N-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)acetamide, and

(3-benzoyl-2-methoxyphenyl)acetamide.

8. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (Ia)



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein :

A is selected from benzene, naphthalene, pyridine, pyrimidine, pyrrole, imidazole, furane, thiophene, indole and 7-aza-indole and labels 1 and 2 mark the relevant positions on the A ring;

the X atom is selected from N (nitrogen) and C (carbon);

R is a substituting group on the A ring selected from :

- a group in the 3 (*meta*)-position selected from a linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkenyl or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkynyl group, substituted or not-substituted phenyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> hydroxyalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-acyl, substituted or not-substituted benzoyl;
- a group in the 4 (*para*)-position selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkenyl or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkynyl group, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-acyloxy, substituted or not-substituted benzoxyloxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-acylamino, substituted or not-substituted benzoylamino, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-sulfonyloxy,

substituted or not-substituted benzenesulfonyloxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkanesulfonylamino, substituted or not-substituted benzenesulfonylamino, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkanesulfonylmethyl, substituted or not-substituted benzenesulfonylmethyl, 2-furyl; 3-tetrahydrofuryl; 2-thiophenyl; 2-tetrahydrothiophenyl groups or a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkanoyl, cycloalkanoyl or arylalkanoyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkylamino group;

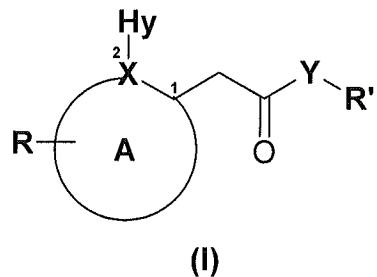
Hy is selected from methyl, ethyl, chlorine, bromine, methoxy and trifluoromethyl—a small hydrophobic group with a steric hindrance factor  $\nu$  ranging between 0.5 and 0.9 Å (where  $\nu$  is the Charton steric constant for substituents);

Rd is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, [[C<sub>1</sub>]]C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl.

9. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 8, wherein  
A is selected from benzene, pyridine, pyrimidine, pyrrole, imidazole, furane, thiophene and indole;  
Rd is selected from methyl, ethyl and isopropyl;  
Hy is selected from methyl, ethyl, chlorine, bromine, methoxy and trifluoromethyl.

10. (Previously Presented) A compound selected from  
(5-acetyl-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acetyl methanesulphonamide,  
(4-isobutyl-2-methylphenyl)acetyl methanesulphonamide,  
{2-methyl-4-[(trifluoromethanesulphonyl)amino]phenyl}acetyl methanesulphonamide, and  
[1-methyl-5-(4-methylbenzoyl)-1H-pyrrol-2-yl]acetyl methanesulphonamide.

11. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (Ia), comprising transforming a compound of formula (I),



wherein

A is benzene, naphthalene, pyridine, pyrimidine, pyrrole, imidazole, furane, thiophene, indole or 7-aza-indole;

labels 1 and 2 mark the relevant positions on the A ring;

the X atom is selected from N (nitrogen) and C (carbon);

R is a substituting group on the A ring selected from:

- a group in the 3 (*meta*)-position selected from a linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkenyl or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkynyl group, substituted or not-substituted phenyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> hydroxyalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-acyl, substituted or not-substituted benzoyl;
- a group in the 4 (*para*)-position selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkenyl or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkynyl group, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-acyloxy, substituted or not-substituted benzyloxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-acylamino, substituted or not-substituted benzoylamino, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-sulfonyloxy, substituted or not-substituted benzenesulfonyloxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkanesulfonylamino, substituted or not-substituted benzenesulfonylamino, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkanesulfonylmethyl, substituted or not-substituted benzenesulfonylmethyl, 2-furyl; 3-

tetrahydrofuryl; 2 thiophenyl; 2-tetrahydrothiophenyl groups or a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkanoyl, cycloalkanoyl or arylalkanoyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkylamino group;

Hy is a small hydrophobic group with a steric hindrance factorChariton steric constant v ranging between 0.5 and 0.9 Å (where v is the Chariton steric constant for substituents); and YR' is OH[[],]; to a reactive intermediate, and reacting the intermediate with a compound of formula NH<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>Rd, wherein Rd is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, [C<sub>1</sub>]C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-cycloalkyl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, in the presence of a suitable base.

12. (Currently Amended) Pharmaceutical compositions comprising a compound according to claim 8 in admixture with a suitable carrier thereof.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 11 where inwherein said reactive intermediate is an acyl chloride or a benzotriazolyl ester.

17. (Cancelled)